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## PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/ VISUAL SITE INSPECTION

## AMERICAN STEEL AND WIRE CORPORATION CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, OHIO OHD 004 220 810

# FORMERLY U.S. STEEL CORPORATION CUYAHOGA PLANT

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## FINAL REPORT

## Prepared for

## U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Office of Waste Programs Enforcement Washington, DC 20460

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PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC), performed a preliminary assessment and visual site inspection (PA/VSI) to identify and assess the existence and likelihood of releases from solid waste management units (SWMU) and other areas of concern (AOC) at the American Steel and Wire Corporation (ASW) facility in Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio. This summary highlights the results of the PA/VSI and the potential for releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents from SWMUs and AOCs identified. In addition, a completed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Assessment Form (EPA Form 2070-12) is included in Attachment A to assist in prioritization of RCRA facilities for corrective action.

The ASW facility manufactures steel rods and wires. The facility primarily generates contact and noncontact wastewater, spent pickle liquor sludge (K062), scrap metals, waste oils, and lubricating greases. The facility has operated at its current location since 1986. It occupies 280 acres in an industrial area and employs about 400 people. The facility's current regulatory status is that of a generator of hazardous waste.

The ASW facility has manufactured steel since the early 1900s when United States Steel Corporation (USS) owned the facility. Until 1986, ASW (formerly known as the US Steel Cuyahoga Plant) was a subsidiary of USS (USS is now part of the USX Corporation [USX]). USS closed the plant in 1984. In 1986, ASW reopened the facility.

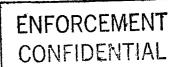
When USS owned ASW, the facility was a treatment, storage, and disposal facility that operated two hazardous waste storage units (a container storage area [SWMU 4] and a tank farm [SWMU 5]). These storage units were closed in 1984 and currently are undergoing RCRA closure.

The PA/VSI identified the following 10 SWMUs at the facility:

# Solid Waste Management Units

- 1. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon
- 2. Sludge Drying Beds
- 3. Scale Pit
- 4. Former Hazardous Waste Drum Storage Area
- 5. Former Hazardous Waste Tank Farm
- 6. Dumpster Boxes
- 7. Baghouse
- 8. Hopper





Drum Storage Area 1 9.

Drum Storage Area 2 INITIA 10.

No AOCs were identified at the facility.

SWMUs 1 through 3 and 6 through 10 have a low potential for release to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. No releases have been documented from these units, and the units have adequate containment to prevent releases. SWMUs 4 and 5 have a low potential for release to the air and surface water because the units are no longer operational. However, SWMUs 4 and 5 have a high potential for release to on-site soils because both units lacked containment: containers were placed directly on bare soil at SWMU 4, and potentially contaminated soils have been excavated as part of closure of SWMU 5. SWMUs 4 and 5 have a moderate potential for release to the ground water because both units lacked containment and spills could migrate through the porous slag soil to ground water. As stated above, SWMUs 4 and 5 are currently undergoing RCRA closure.

The Cuyahoga River and the former Ohio Canal are located adjacent to the facility. ASW obtains part of its industrial water supply from the canal. A wetlands area also is located approximately 0.25 miles south of the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). Ground water is not known to be used in the general area of the facility. The City of Cleveland provides drinking water. Access to the facility is controlled by guards and barriers (fences and the Cuyahoga River).

PRC recommends that sampling be conducted at SWMUs 4 and 5 in accordance with the facility's approved closure plan. Any contaminated soils found should be excavated and disposed of off-site.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC) received Work Assignment No. C05087 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Contract No. 68-W9-0006 (TES 9) to conduct preliminary assessments (PA) and visual site inspections (VSI) of hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities in Region 5.

As part of the EPA Region 5 Environmental Priorities Initiative, the RCRA and CERCLA programs are working together to identify and address RCRA facilities that have a high priority for corrective action using applicable RCRA and CERCLA authorities. The PA/VSI is the first step in the process of prioritizing facilities for corrective action. Through the PA/VSI process, enough information is obtained to characterize a facility's actual or potential releases to the environment from solid waste management units (SWMU) and areas of concern (AOC).

A SWMU is defined as any discernible unit at a RCRA facility in which solid wastes have been placed and from which hazardous constituents might migrate, regardless of whether the unit was intended to manage solid or hazardous waste.

The SWMU definition includes the following:

- RCRA-regulated units, such as container storage areas, tanks, surface impoundments, waste piles, land treatment units, landfills, incinerators, and underground injection wells
- Closed and abandoned units
- Recycling units, wastewater treatment units, and other units that EPA has generally exempted from standards applicable to hazardous waste management units
- Areas contaminated by routine and systematic releases of wastes or hazardous constituents. Such areas might include a wood preservative drippage area, a loading-unloading area, or an area where solvent used to wash large parts has continually dripped onto soils.

An AOC is defined as any area where a release to the environment of hazardous waste or constituents has occurred or is suspected to have occurred on a nonroutine and nonsystematic basis. This includes any area where such a release in the future is judged to be a strong possibility.

## The purpose of the PA is as follows:

- Identify SWMUs and AOCs at the facility.
- Obtain information on the operational history of the facility.
- Obtain information on releases from any units at the facility.
- Identify data gaps and other informational needs to be filled during the VSI.

The PA generally includes review of all relevant documents and files located at state offices and at the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

## The purpose of the VSI is as follows:

- Identify SWMUs and AOCs not discovered during the PA.
- Identify releases not discovered during the PA.
- Provide a specific description of the environmental setting.
- Provide information on release pathways and the potential for releases to each medium.
- Confirm information obtained during the PA regarding operations, SWMUs, AOCs, and releases.

The VSI includes interviewing appropriate facility staff, inspecting the entire facility to identify all SWMUs and AOCs, photographing all visible SWMUs, identifying evidence of releases, initially identifying potential sampling parameters and locations, if needed, and obtaining all information necessary to complete the PA/VSI report.

This report documents the results of a PA/VSI of the American Steel and Wire (ASW) facility in Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio. The PA was completed on January 31, 1992. PRC gathered and reviewed information from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and from EPA Region 5 RCRA files. The VSI was conducted on February 12, 1992. It included interviews with facility representatives and a walk-through inspection of the facility. Ten SWMUs were identified at the facility; no AOCs were identified.

PRC completed EPA Form 2070-12 using information gathered during the PA/VSI. This form is included in Attachment A. The VSI is summarized and 18 inspection photographs are included in Attachment B. Field notes from the VSI are included in Attachment C.

#### 2.0 FACILITY DESCRIPTION

This section describes the facility's location, past and present operations (including waste management practices), waste generating processes, history of documented releases, regulatory history, environmental setting, and receptors.

#### 2.1 FACILITY LOCATION

The ASW facility is located at 4300 East 49th Street in Cuyahoga Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (latitude 41° 20' 37" N and longitude 81° 39' 44"W), as shown in Figure 1. The facility occupies 280 acres in an industrial area.

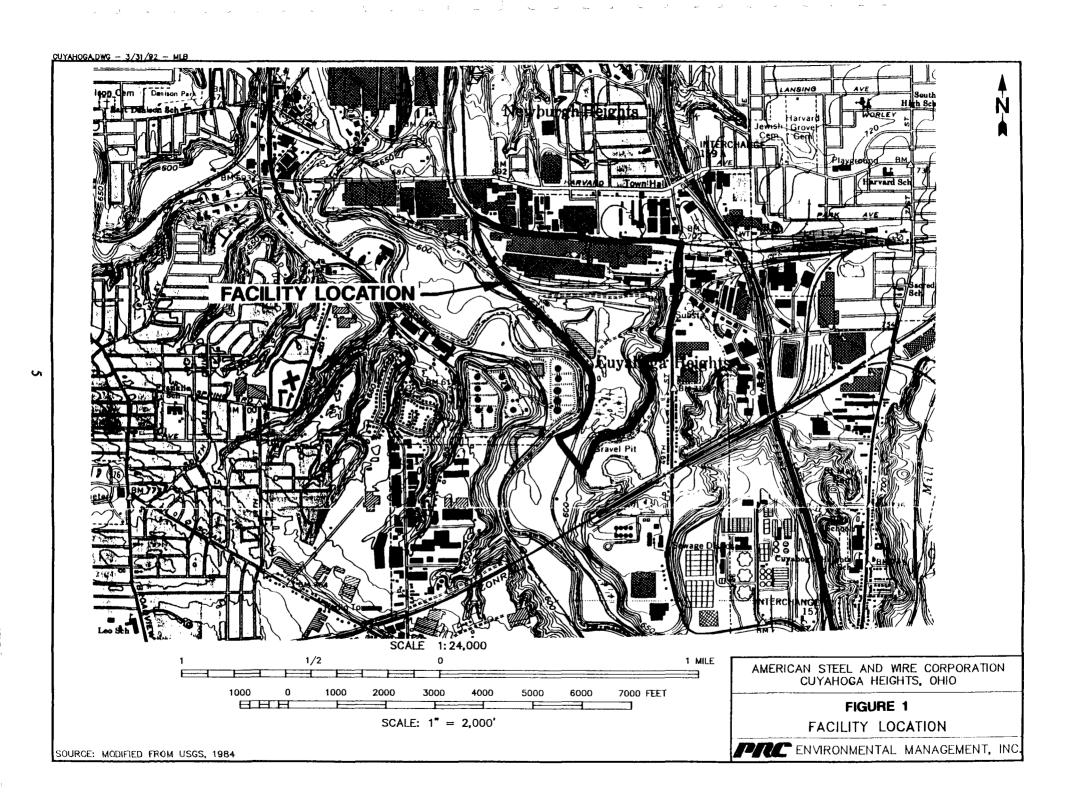
The ASW facility is bordered on the north by a railroad, on the west and south by the Ohio Canal and Cuyahoga River, and on the east by East 49th Street. A man-made bluff primarily composed of slag deposits and approximately 40 to 60 feet high runs through the ASW property. Approximately 200 acres of the facility lie below the bluff. The manufacturing operations occupy 80 acres on the bluff (ASW, 1992a). A security fence surrounds the entire facility, except at the Cuyahoga River.

#### 2.2 FACILITY OPERATIONS

The ASW facility currently manufactures rod and wire from steel billets. The manufacturing operations occur at the rod, wire, and cold roll mills. In the rod mill, steel billets are heated and rolled into rods of various sizes. Rods manufactured in the rod mill are sold to customers and also used by ASW as raw materials in the wire mill. In the wire and cold roll mills, rods are cleaned, coated, and annealed or drawn to produce various wire products.

ASW has operated at this location since July 1986 and currently employs approximately 400 employees (ASW, 1992a). In addition to the rod, wire, and cold mills, the facility includes a billet yard, administrative offices, metallurgy laboratories, maintenance shop, warehouses, and parking lots.

ASW operates a wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1) located near the Ohio Canal and Cuyahoga River. In 1986, the facility constructed several sludge drying beds (SWMU 2) near the lagoon to dewater sludge dredged from the lagoon. ASW uses a scale pit (SWMU 3) to remove



steel particles and oil from wastewater generated in the rod mill. The steel particles and waste oil are recycled by off-site facilities.

US Steel - Cuyahoga Plant (ASW's predecessor) formerly operated a hazardous waste drum storage area (SWMU 4) and tank farm (SWMU 5) adjacent to the cold roll mill. These units stored spent pickle liquor generated at the wire mill. Both units areas are currently undergoing closure. Several dumpster boxes (SWMU 6) containing excavated soils from the tank farm are located near the cold roll mill. ASW operates a baghouse (SWMU 7) outside the rod mill. Dusts collected by the baghouse are combined with other metal-bearing wastes (such as scrap metal) in a hopper (SWMU 8) outside the old Normalizing Building.) ASW stores waste oils and lubricating greases at two drum storage areas (SWMUs 9 and 10) at the facility. Both waste oils and greases are sent off site for reclamation.

All SWMUs identified at the facility and their current status are listed in Table 1. The facility layout, including the location of SWMUs at the facility, is shown in Figure 2.

The ASW facility has manufactured steel since the early 1900s when United States Steel Corporation (USS) owned the facility. Until 1986, ASW (formerly known as the US Steel Cuyahoga Plant) was a subsidiary of USS (that is now part of the USX Corporation [USX]). The facility was shut down in 1984. In 1986, ASW, which separated completely from USX, reopened the plant (ASW, 1992a).

Currently, there are two tenants that also operate at the ASW facility. Gibraltar Strip Steel has leased manufacturing space inside the cold roll mill since 1987. In addition, Nook Industries has been mining slag deposits within the facility since 1987 (ASW, 1992a). Neither of these facilities generates or manages hazardous wastes.

## 2.3 WASTE GENERATING PROCESSES

The primary waste streams generated at the ASW facility are contact and noncontact wastewater, spent pickle liquor (K062), scrap metals, and waste oils. These wastes are all generated during the rod and wire production process. The majority of wastewater generated is recycled. Wastes generated at the facility are discussed below and are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 1
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS (SWMU)

SWMU Number	SWMU Name	RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Unit*	Status
1	Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	No	Active
2	Sludge Drying Beds	No	Active
3	Scale Pit	No	Active
4	Former Hazardous Waste Drum Storage Area	Yes	Undergoing Closure
5	Former Hazardous Waste Tank Farm	Yes	Undergoing Closure
6	Dumpster Boxes	No	Active
7	Baghouse	No	Active
8	Hopper	No	Active
9	Drum Storage Area 1	No	Active
10	Drum Storage Area 2	No	Active

<sup>\*</sup> A RCRA hazardous waste management unit is one that currently requires or formerly required submittal of a RCRA Part A or Part B permit application.

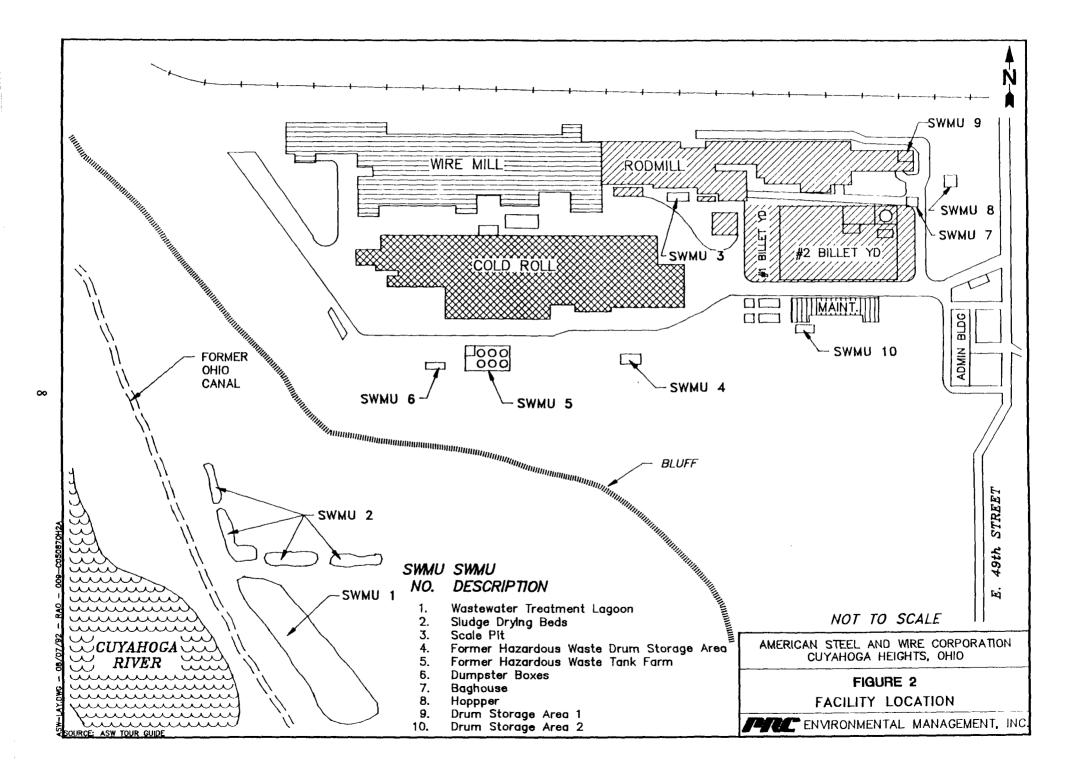


TABLE 2
SOLID WASTES

Waste/EPA Waste Code	Source	Primary Management Unit*
Acid sludge/K062	Spent Pickle Liquor Regeneration System	
Spent pickle liquor/K062	Picking tanks in Wire and Cold Mills	SWMUs 4 and 5
Contact and noncontact wastewaters (includes surface runoff)/NA**	Rod, Wire, and Cold Mills	SWMUs 1 and 3
Contaminated soils and other media/D008	Spills	SWMU 4
Wastewater treatment sludge/NA	Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	SWMU 2
Metal dusts/NA	Rod, Wire, and Cold Mills	SWMUs 7 and 8
Scrap metal/NA	Rod, Wire, and Cold Mills	SWMUs 3 and 8
Waste oils and lubricating greases/NA	Rod, Wire, and Cold Mills	SWMUs 9 and 10
Contaminated soils/NA	Tank Farm (SWMU 5) closure	SWMU 6

## Note:

- \* Primary management unit refers to a SWMU that currently manages or formerly managed the waste.
- \*\* Nonapplicable (NA) designates nonhazardous waste.

Wastewater is generated by various processes at the facility. This wastewater includes noncontact cooling water from the rod, wire, and cold mills, wastewater from stands, autowash and backflush in the rod mill, and blowdown from boilers. Noncontact wastewater from the rod mill furnace and stands, and boiler blowdown are routed to the Scale Pit (SWMU 3) for treatment before being combined with other wastewater, including surface runoff, at the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1).

Currently, ASW recycles approximately 99 percent of the wastewater entering the lagoon (SWMU 1) back to manufacturing processes in the plant (ASW, 1992a). Occasionally, ASW discharges treated wastewater to the Cuyahoga River through permitted outfall 001. Wastewaters from sanitary uses and wire mill rinses are discharged to the sanitary sewer.

In 1986, ASW dredged the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). At that time, ASW constructed the sludge drying beds (SWMU 2) to dewater the nonhazardous sludge. Before 1986, US Steel - Cuyahoga Plant (ASW's predecessor) deposited dredged sludge in various areas near the lagoon (Envisage Environmental, Inc., 1987). Between 1986 and 1991, ASW applied a mixture of the sludge (with sand or slag plus topsoil) to several areas of the plant to support vegetation and enhance the highly porous slag soil (ASW, 1991a).

ASW generates spent pickle liquor (K062) as a waste product from steel pickling operations in the wire mill. Until 1984, US Steel-Cuyahoga Plant (ASW's predecessor) stored the spent pickle liquor in containers at the former hazardous waste drum storage area (SWMU 4) and at a hazardous waste tank farm (SWMU 5) before disposal or recycling off site. US Steel-Cuyahoga Plant also stored contaminated soils, Extraction Procedure (EP) toxic for the lead (D008), at the drum storage area (SWMU 4). When ASW reopened the facility in 1986, ASW installed a continuous acid regeneration system at the wire mill to recycle the spent pickle liquor. The acid regeneration system returns recycled acid to the pickling process. The regeneration system also produces ferrous sulfate that is sold as raw material (ASW, 1992a). Twice a year, a disposal company pumps acid sludge (K062) from the bottom of several tanks in the regeneration system to a tanker truck. The acid sludge is then disposed of off site at a deep well injection facility.

ASW generates various scrap metals and metal-bearing dusts in the rod, wire, and cold mills. Grinding and buffing operations in the rod mill produce nonhazardous dusts that are collected in a baghouse (SWMU 7). ASW combines this dust with other scrap metal (that is,

shavings, cuttings, and other metal pieces) generated by the wire and cold mills in a hopper (SWMU 8) located outside the rod mill. The scrap metal and metal-bearing dusts are sent to an off site metal reclaimer. ASW also generates a metal-bearing sludge (primarily steel) when dredging the scale pit (SWMU 3) near the rod mill. This nonhazardous sludge also is sent to an off site reclamation facility (ASW, 1992a).

ASW generates waste oils from several sources at the plant. Various waste oils and lubricating greases are produced by machinery and equipment in the rod, wire, and cold mills. ASW also generates oily wastes from skimming oil from wastewater at the scale pit (SWMU 3) and wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). Waste oils and greases at the site are sent to several off-site reclamation facilities including SK services, Research Oil, and Ameriwaste (ASW, 1992b). The oils are either blended for reuse as fuels or regenerated as lubricants (ASW, 1992a).

The part-washer units are supplied and serviced by a solvent reclamation facility. At no time are spent solvents from the parts washers stored on site. USX has excavated soils potentially contaminated with heavy metals, from the closure of the former hazardous waste tank farm (SWMU 5). Currently, these contaminated soils are stored in dumpster boxes (SWMU 6) near the tank farm, pending determination of their regulatory status (ASW, 1992a). ASW has produced small amounts of waste associated with an asbestos abatement program. The asbestos was disposed of at an off-site facility.

#### 2.4 HISTORY OF DOCUMENTED RELEASES

This section discusses the history of documented releases to ground water, surface water, air, and on-site soils at the ASW facility.

There are no documented releases from any SWMUs at the facility, with the exception of the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). OEPA inspections have noted releases of oily wastewater from overflow and leakage around the headwall of the unit into the Cuyahoga River (OEPA, 1991a). OEPA notified ASW that the leakage was a violation of the facility's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. ASW corrected the overflow and leakage problems by modifying the headwall and implementing operational changes to prevent overflows (ASW, 1991b). Potentially contaminated soils from the storage of K062 at SWMU 5 have been excavated and are currently awaiting characterization.

During 1987, OEPA required ASW to determine whether dredged sludge from the lagoon (SWMU 1) was releasing hazardous constituents to the environment. ASW contracted Envisage Environmental, Inc. to sample and analyze soils in the sludge drying beds (SWMU 2) situated in the lowlands adjacent to the lagoon and Cuyahoga River. Results of Envisage Environmental, Inc.'s study concluded that the deposited sludge and surrounding soils near the lagoon did not contain Extraction Procedure (EP) toxicity constituents greater than regulatory levels. In addition, Envisage Environmental, Inc. analyzed the soils for various volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatiles, and acidic compounds, none of which were present above detection limits (EEI, 1987).

#### 2.5 REGULATORY HISTORY

US Steel Cuyahoga Plant (ASW's predecessor) submitted a notification of hazardous waste activity to EPA in 1980. The plant submitted a RCRA Part A application on November 18, 1980. The application listed a container storage area (S01) (capacity 2,800 gallons) and tank storage area (S02) (capacity 160,000 gallons). The application also identified the following RCRA hazardous waste streams to be managed in these units: spent pickle liquor (K062), and Waste Extraction Procedure (EP) toxic for lead (D008) (USS, 1980). In 1982, US Steel Cuyahoga plant submitted a revised Part A application, identifying an additional waste stream discarded commercial chemical product (U210) to be managed in the container storage area. The estimated annual quantity of each waste stream was also revised (USS, 1982).

In 1984, US Steel Cuyahoga Plant ceased operations at the facility and submitted a closure plan for the container storage area and tank farm to OEPA (USS, 1984). In 1986, ASW reopened the facility and submitted a new notification of hazardous waste activity. The new notification identified ASW as the owner and operator of the facility and categorized the facility as a generator of waste streams K062, corrosive wastes (D002), and reactive wastes (D003) (ASW, 1986). In 1987, OEPA conditionally approved the US Steel Cuyahoga Plant's closure plan, and EPA concurred with OEPA's review and approval (USEPA, 1987).

Because some confusion existed over who was responsible for the closure of the container storage area and tank farm, both ASW and USX were required to submit closure plans for the two units. ASW submitted a closure plan to OEPA for the two units on November 15, 1989. ASW submitted revisions to the closure plan to OEPA on August 23, 1991 (OEPA, 1991c). OEPA approved ASW's plan on November 14, 1991 (OEPA, 1991c). USX submitted a closure plan for

the two units on January 14, 1991, which OEPA found deficient (OEPA, 1991b). During the VSI, ASW reported that USX was conducting the closure of the container storage area and tank farm pursuant to a court order (ASW, 1992a). No further information on the court order or the status of the unit's closure was obtained for this report.

Currently, ASW operates as a generator of spent pickle liquor (K062) and spent mineral spirit solvents (D001) from part-washing machines. These wastes have not accumulated at any areas on site (ASW, 1992a).

Since 1986, OEPA has inspected ASW several times. In 1986, OEPA did not identify any RCRA violations; however, the facility was not operating at the time of the inspection (OEPA, 1986). In 1989, OEPA cited ASW for failing to submit exception reports to OEPA on several waste shipments for which ASW did not receive return copies of the manifests (OEPA, 1989a). In addition, EPA issued ASW a Notice of Violation (NOV) for failing to provide land disposal restriction (LDR) notices with off-site shipments of restricted wastes (K062) and for failing to determine whether the restricted wastes exceeded applicable treatment standards (USEPA, 1990). ASW responded to both OEPA and EPA NOVs and was formally returned to compliance (OEPA, 1989b, USEPA, 1991).

ASW has various units, such as the reheat furnace, annealing furnace, natural gas compressors, grinders, and boilers, that generate air emissions and are subject to air permits (ASW, 1992a). No information was available regarding air permit compliance problems.

ASW is required to have a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The facility has one outfall (outfall 001) from the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1) that discharges into the Cuyahoga River (ASW, 1992a). The facility's permit (OH0002160) specifies that ASW monitor the discharge for total recoverable iron, lead, copper, zinc, nickel, and chromium; phosphorous; dissolved hexavalent chromium; water temperature; pH; oil and grease; total nonfilterable residuals; and flow rate (OEPA, 1987b). Nook Industries, a tenant at the ASW facility, has applied for a separate NPDES permit for storm-water runoff from their slag mining operations to the Cuyahoga River (ASW, 1992a).

In 1991, OEPA inspections noted releases of oily wastewater from overflow and from leakage around the headwall of the unit into the Cuyahoga River (OEPA, 1991a). ASW corrected the overflow and leakage problems by modifying the headwall and implementing operational

changes to prevent overflows (ASW, 1991b). More recent records indicate that ASW has complied with final effluent limitations for outfall 001 (OEPA, 1991d). No other violations concerning outfall 001 were identified. As of February 1991, ASW had stopped applying wastewater treatment sludge in the sludge drying beds (SWMU 2) to areas of the facility (ASW, 1991a). ASW is awaiting a permit from OEPA for this activity (ASW, 1992a).

#### 2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes the climate, flood plain and surface water, geology and soils, and ground water near the ASW facility.

#### 2.6.1 Climate

Average temperatures in Cleveland range from a low of 26 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in January to a high of 72°F in July. In summer, northern areas nearest Lake Erie are markedly colder than the rest of the area. Precipitation is well distributed during the year. Average annual precipitation is 35.4 inches, and the intensity of a 1-year, 24-hour rainfall is 2 inches. Average annual net precipitation is approximately 5.4 inches. From the late fall through winter, snow squalls are frequent and snowfall normally is heavy. Of the total annual precipitation, 60 percent usually falls between April and September. Average relative humidity in mid-afternoon is 60 percent, and the average humidity at dawn is 80 percent. The relative humidity is higher at night than during the day. The percentage of sunshine is 70 percent in the summer and 30 percent in winter. The prevailing wind direction is from the south. Average wind speed is highest, 13 miles per hour, in January (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1990).

## 2.6.2 Flood Plain and Surface Water

The nearest surface waters are the Ohio Canal and the Cuyahoga River, both of which are located next to each other below the bluff on the south and west sides of the facility. Runoff at the site primarily drains to the Ohio Canal or Cuyahoga River, but runoff from manufacturing areas may also drain to the Cleveland storm-water system. The Ohio Canal and Cuyahoga River (average discharge of the River is 832 ft<sup>3</sup>/s) run parallel to each other, southeast to northwest; eventually they join Lake Erie approximately 5 miles to the northwest. Manufacturing areas of the facility are not located within the 100-year flood plain (ASW, 1992a).

## 2.6.3 Geology and Soils

Site-specific geology information concerning the ASW facility is limited. ASW could not provide any site-specific geologic surveys of the facility (ASW, 1992c). Surficial and subsurface soils have been altered extensively from more than 90 years of mining and steel-making activities that have occurred at the site. Slag deposits are located throughout the facility. Construction rubble and debris have also been disposed of at the site. Test boring logs near the sludge pits (SWMU 2) identified miscellaneous debris such as brick, wire, cinders, wood and mill scale in addition to silty clays within 21 feet of the surface (EEI, 1987). Soils within the manufacturing areas of the facility are a mixture of slag, natural soils, and other fill. The "slag soil" tends to be highly porous. ASW has applied dewatered sludge from the wastewater treatment lagoon to areas of the facility (approximately 24.4 acres [ASW, 1991e]) to enhance the "slag soil" that constitutes much of the property (ASW, 1991a). Because site-specific geology is limited, regional geology in the area of ASW is discussed below.

Cuyahoga County is located in two physiographic provinces: the glaciated Allegheny Plateau of the Appalachian Plateau Province to the south and east, and the Eastern Lake and Till Plains section of the Central Lowland Province to the west and north. The line of demarcation between the two provinces is the Portage Escarpment which runs northeast - southwest, just north of Cleveland. Topography in the Allegheny Plateau is characterized by mature river valleys while the Central Lowland topography is controlled predominately by thick glacial deposits. Bordering Lake Erie is the Lake Plain area, a narrow strip averaging 4 miles and composed of lacustrine and beach ridge deposits (Leverett and Horn, 1931; White, 1982).

Two general classes of deposits exist: glacially derived unconsolidated deposits of Quaternary age and consolidated sandstone and shale of Paleozoic age. During the Pleistocene Epoch of the Quaternary period, several glaciers advanced and retreated in the region. The last glacial advances and retreats during the Wisconsinan stage occurred in two distinct lobes; the Killbuck Lobe to the west and the Cuyahoga Lobe to the east (Leverett and Horn, 1931; White, 1982). Specific glacial units discussed will not be correlated to a specific lobe because several of the units were synchronous deposits and have the same general characteristics.

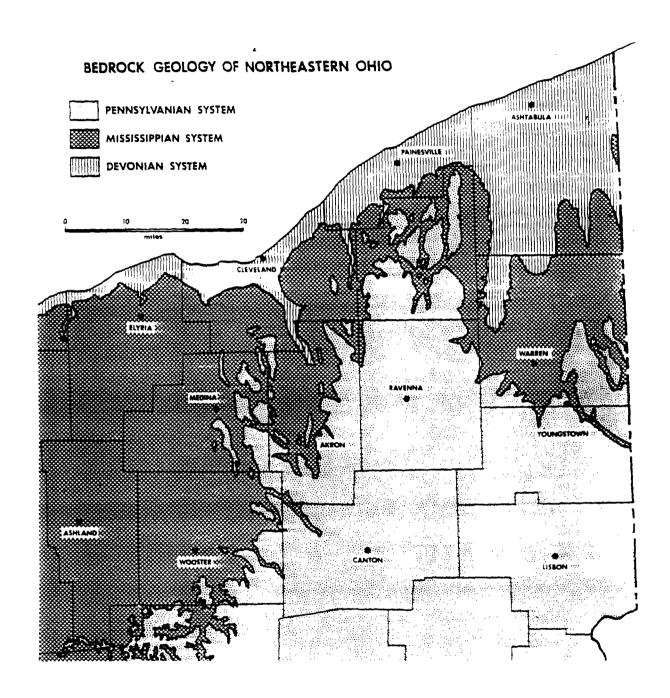
Associated with the glacial deposits are glacial outwash deposits of sand and gravel that are predominately located in valleys and on valley sides. The majority of the glacial deposits are heterogenous and may contain discontinuous lenses and thin sheets of sand and gravel

(White, 1982). Glacial deposits in the area range from 0 to 300 feet thick. South of the Lake Plain area, the upper most unit, the Hiram Till, is exposed. The Hiram Till is a clay till that ranges from 0 to 30+ feet thick. The Kent-Navarre Till underlines the previous unit and it is composed of clayey sand and silt that ranges in thickness form 0 to 100 feet. The last Wisconsin age unconsolidated unit in the area is the Mogadore-Millbrook Till which is also composed of clayey sand and silt (Banks and Feldmann, 1970; White, 1982). Pre-Wisconsin age tills and outwash deposits unconformably overlie the bedrock in deep depressional surfaces such as in buried bedrock valleys. The Pre-Wisconsin deposits are discontinuous across northeastern Ohio. These deposits are more than 60-feet thick in parts of Cuyahoga County and provide large quantities of high-grade gravel in the Mill Creek valley (White, 1982).

The bedrock units dip slightly to the south and south-southeast at about 20 feet per mile (Leverett and Horn, 1931). Devonian age bedrock is exposed in the subcrop and along river valleys along Lake Erie. Bedrock units progressively become younger to the south (Figure 3). The uppermost bedrock unit is the Sharon Conglomerate of the Pottsville Group of Pennsylvanian age. It is approximately 0 to 150 feet thick. Underlying this unit is the Cuyahoga Group of Mississippian age which is approximately 160 to 425 feet thick and is composed primarily of blue to gray shale with alternating beds of sandy shale to sandstone. Figure 4 shows these formation as they occur under the Cleveland area (Williams, 1940). Underlying the Cuyahoga Group is the Berea Sandstone which ranges from 5 to 150 thick. The Berea Sandstone overlies the Bedford Shale which is composed of firm to soft gray siliceous shale ranging in thickness from 50 to 90 feet. This formation overlies the Ohio Shale of Devonian age which is over 400 thick. The Ohio Shale formation is predominately black carboniferous shale with beds of greenish-gray shale. Underlying this unit is a series of older Paleozoic era limestones, and sandstones and shales (Leverett and Horn, 1931; Banks and Feldmann, 1970; White, 1982).

## 2.6.4 Ground Water

Specific information about the ground water beneath the site was not available. ASW could not provide any site-specific information on the occurrence of ground water at the facility (ASW, 1992c). As stated above, the natural soils at the site have been altered extensively by mining and steel-making operations. Undisturbed soils beneath the site consist of glacial till that may contain sources of water, especially where the glacial drift is thick and consists largely of sand and gravel. In addition, alluvial deposits near the Cuyahoga River may contain significant amounts of water; however, specific water-bearing units were not identified at the facility.

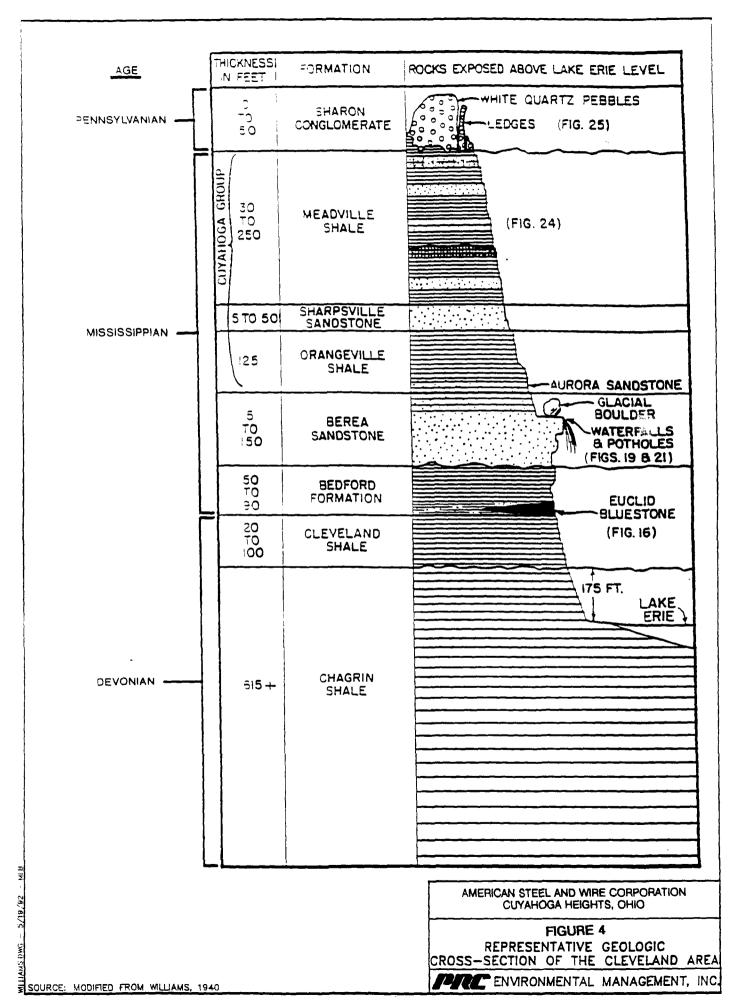


AMERICAN STEEL AND WIRE CORPORATION CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, OHIO

FIGURE 3
BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF
NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Source: Modified from Banks and Feldman, 1970

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, INC



Based on the topographic relief gradient, the ground-water flow is expected to be southeast to northwest, towards the Cuyahoga River. The ground-water flow rate is unknown. Because of the facility's proximity to the Cuyahoga River, depth to the ground water in the area below the bluff is expected to be several feet or less.

The use of groundwater in the county is limited to water-bearing formations within the bedrock, alluvial and glacial outwash deposits found mostly in valleys, and, to a lesser extent, sand and gravel lenses and sheets associated with the glacial drift. Existing valleys generally contain thick deposits of sand and gravel from glacial outwash. Wells in these deposits can yield up to 500 gpm. The glacial outwash has an estimated hydraulic conductivity of 10<sup>-3</sup> to 10<sup>-1</sup> cm/sec (Bloyd, 1974; Fetter, 1988).

The glacial deposits also may be a source of groundwater where the deposits overlie the Ohio Shale, especially where the drift is thick and contains a large percentage of sand (Leverett and Horn, 1931). The hydraulic conductivity for such aquifers is estimated to be less than  $10^{-3}$  cm/sec (Bloyd, 1974). Water-bearing formations within the Paleozoic bedrock include the Sharon Conglomerate and Berea Sandstone. Both aquifers have an estimated hydraulic conductivity  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^{-8}$  cm/sec; wells in these units can yield 25 to 100 gpm (Bloyd, 1974; Freeze and Cherry, 1979). Generally, local groundwater flow in shallow glacial aquifers is controlled by surface topography, discharging into nearby rivers or lakes. The regional groundwater flow in the bedrock most likely towards the Appalachian Basin to the south (Bloyd, 1974).

## 2.7 RECEPTORS

The ASW facility occupies 280 acres in an industrial area in Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio. Cuyahoga Heights has a population of 707. The nearest school to the ASW facility is Harvard School, approximately 1 mile to the east. Washington Park, a Cleveland metro park, is located about 1 mile north of ASW.

The ASW facility is bordered on the north by a railroad, on the west and south by the Ohio Canal and Cuyahoga River, and on the east by East 49th Street. Other industrial activities are located surrounding the facility. A bluff paralleling the Cuyahoga River runs through the facility. Approximately 200 acres of the facility lie below the bluff. The manufacturing operations occupy 80 acres on the bluff (ASW, 1992a). Security guards, fences, and gates control access to the facility.

The Ohio Canal and Cuyahoga River are the nearest surface water bodies to the facility.

The canal no longer is used for transportation, but the canal does provide water for industrial use.

The Cuyahoga River provides water for industrial use and also is used for recreation.

Ground water is not known to be used for any purpose near the facility. ASW obtains water from the Ohio Canal (for industrial uses) and the city of Cleveland (for drinking water and industrial use). Cuyahoga Heights and the surrounding area obtain drinking water from the City of Cleveland; Cleveland obtains its water supplies from Lake Erie.

A wetlands area (approximately 25 acres) adjacent to the Cuyahoga River is located about 0.25 miles south of the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). The wetlands is categorized a palustrine emergent system containing broad-leafed deciduous plants (USDI, 1977). No critical wildlife habitats were identified within 2 miles of the facility.

#### 3.0 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS

This section describes the 10 SWMUs identified during the PA/VSI. The following information is presented for each SWMU: description of the unit, dates of operation, wastes managed, release controls, history of documented releases, and PRC observations. Figure 2 shows the SWMU locations.

#### SWMU 1

#### Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

Unit Description:

The wastewater treatment lagoon is located adjacent to a former canal; the canal is next to the Cuyahoga River. The unlined lagoon treats plant wastewater before it is recycled back to the mills or discharged. Oil, grease, and suspended solids (mill scale) are removed from the wastewater. The rectangular lagoon is approximately 10 to 12 feet deep and has a maximum capacity of 15 million gallons. The lagoon is surrounded on three sides by a dike made of earthen materials and slag, but the lagoon has a concrete dam at the south end near the discharge. A Parshall flume controls wastewater discharge. In addition, the lagoon is equipped with a clay liner. At three corners of the lagoon are oil skimmers and 1500-gallon steel tanks containing oil skimmed from the wastewater. A chain-link fence surrounds the impoundment (see photograph nos. 1 and 2).

Date of Startup:

The unit began operating in 1966.

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed:

The unit manages contact and noncontact wastewater generated by various plant operations. The lagoon also receives runoff from the plant. Sludge, consisting of mill scale, accumulates at the bottom of the lagoon. Analysis of dredged sludge indicated that the sludge was not EP toxic (EEI, 1987). Treated wastewater occasionally is discharged to the Cuyahoga River (average discharge 45,000 gal/day), while the sludge is periodically (approximately every 4 to 5 years) dredged and placed into drying beds (SWMU 2)

(ASW, 1992a).

Release Controls:

The lagoon's embankments seemed to provide adequate protection against overtopping. The unit was equipped with a Parshall flume and a bypass system to control the discharge of wastewater to the Cuyahoga River.

History of Documented Releases:

Releases of oily wastewater from overflows and leakage around the headwall of the unit to the Cuyahoga River have been documented (OEPA, 1991a).

Observations:

The lagoon contained wastewater with a noticeable oily sheen. The lagoon's earthen embankments showed no signs of erosion, and the concrete dam was free of any cracks. Some vegetation was observed growing on sections of the earthen dikes. No discharge was observed.

SWMU 2

Sludge Drying Beds

Unit Description:

The sludge drying beds are located adjacent to the waste-water treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). The beds are used to dewater sludge removed from the lagoon. There is a total of four beds. Each bed is approximately 12 feet wide, 30 to 40 feet long, and 8 feet deep. The beds contain drainage tile to convey water back to the treatment lagoon. Approximately 10,313 cubic yards of sludge remain in the unit (ASW, 1991d). Three or four ground-water monitoring wells are located next to the beds but are not currently in use (see photograph nos. 3 and 4). OEPA required ASW to conduct some initial ground-water monitoring after construction of the beds. ASW could not provide any monitoring data -- facility representatives indicated that monitoring of the wells ceased in 1986.

Date of Startup:

The unit was constructed in 1986.

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed:

The beds manage sludge (mostly mill scale) dredged from the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). After sufficient dewatering, ASW removes the sludge and applies it to various areas of the plant. The sludge does not exhibit the EP toxicity characteristic (EEI, 1987).

Release Controls:

The bottom of each pit contains drainage tile that conveys water (and run-on) into the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1).

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from this SWMU have been documented. ASW was required by OEPA to determine whether the dredged sludge could be releasing hazardous constituents to the environment. Analysis of sludge and soil samples in the area concluded neither the sludge nor soils was EP toxic.

Observations:

The sludge beds were covered with a light snow during the VSI; therefore, it was not possible to view the interior of the beds. Some vegetation was observed growing on the embankments of the sludge beds.

#### SWMU 3

#### Scale Pit

Unit Description:

The scale pit is located outside the south end of the rod mill. The below-grade pit is used to settle out suspended particles present in wastewater generated in the mill. The clarified wastewater then flows to the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). The rectangular pit also has an oil skimmer that removes floating oil. The pit is made of reinforced concrete (see photograph nos. 5 and 6). A railroad siding is adjacent to the pit. ASW periodically dredges the pit with a railroad crane. The dredged material contains steel particles that are recycled at an off-site facility.

Date of Startup:

The pit was constructed in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed:

The unit receives wastewater from the rod mill. The wastewater contains oil and suspended particles such as steel cuttings.

Release Controls:

The unit is constructed with reinforced concrete approximately 18 inches thick.

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from this SWMU have been documented.

Observations:

The concrete sidewalls of the pit did not have any noticeable cracks. Wastewater was flowing through the pit during the VSI, so it was not possible to inspect the bottom of the pit. The pit had adequate freeboard to prevent overtopping.

## SWMU 4

#### Former Hazardous Waste Drum Storage Area

Unit Description:

The former hazardous waste drum storage area is located near the edge of a bluff that runs across the facility. The unit formerly was used by US Steel-Cuyahoga Plant to store drums containing hazardous waste generated by the facility. The storage area consisted of a 1,250-square-foot area completely surrounded by a fence. Sealed 55-gallon drums were stored upright in a single layer on bare ground within the fenced area. The design capacity of the unit was fifty 55-gallon drums (see photograph no. 7) (USS, 1984).

Date of Startup:

The unit began operation in October 1980 (USS, 1984).

Date of Closure:

The unit has been inactive since 1984 and is undergoing

RCRA closure.

Wastes Managed:

Containerized leaded steel dust (D008) and, on occasion, drums of spent pickle liquor contaminated soils (K062), were the only hazardous wastes stored in the unit. Leaded

steel dust is a finely divided powder resulting from steel grinder operations. Infrequent spills of pickle liquor on the ground may have contaminated the surrounding soils (USS, 1984). These wastes were disposed of at off site hazardous waste facilities.

Release Controls:

The unit has no release controls such as pavement or berms.

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from this unit have been documented.

Observations:

No drums containing wastes were present in the former storage area during the VSI. A corroded and damaged empty drum was observed inside the former drum storage area. The fence surrounding the unit was in disarray. Vegetation and evidence of sampling boreholes were seen inside the former storage area.

#### SWMU 5

#### Former Hazardous Waste Tank Farm

Unit Description:

The former hazardous waste tank farm is located near the edge of a bluff that runs through the facility. The tank farm formerly was used by US Steel-Cuyahoga Plant to temporarily store spent pickle liquor (K062) before the waste was shipped off site for disposal or reuse as a treatment chemical in a POTW. The tank farm consists of four 40,000-gallon carbon steel storage tanks lined with acid-resistant brick and rubber, a pump house, two fiberglass spent pickle liquor collection tanks (approximately 1,000 gallons each) and transfer pumps, rubber-lined interconnection piping, and an acid loading area. At anytime during the operating life of the tank farm, the maximum inventory of waste in storage is 162,000 gallons including the four storage tanks and fiberglass collection tanks. However, because one of the storage tanks was not working during the operation of the tank farm, the available storage capacity was 122,000 gallons instead of 162,000 gallons (USS, 1984). The four storage tanks are located on bare ground covered with crushed slag within a 70- by 100foot partially enclosed area (see photograph nos. 8, 9, and 10).

Date of Startup:

The tank farm was constructed in the late 1960s (ASW, 1992a).

Date of Closure:

The unit has been inactive since 1984 and is undergoing RCRA closure.

Wastes Managed:

The waste stored in the two collection tanks and carbon steel storage tanks was spent pickle liquor (K062) that primarily consisted of sulfuric and some hydrochloric acids. Besides being corrosive (pH < 2), spent pickle liquor also contained

lead and hexavalent chromium as hazardous constituents of concern. The spent pickle liquor was shipped off site for disposal by injection well or reused as a treatment chemical at a POTW. Typically, off site shipments of pickle liquor averaged about 200,000 gallons per month during the unit's active life (USS, 1984).

Release Controls:

The unit was equipped with automatic controls and manual overrides to control the loading and unloading of spent pickle liquor from the tanks. However, there was no secondary containment outside the tanks (such as berms) to prevent a release in case of tank failure.

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from this SWMU have been documented.

Observations:

All the piping at the tank farm had been dismantled or disconnected. There were no visible signs of damage or holes in the tanks to indicate that any releases had occurred. However, some of the bare ground within the tank farm area had been excavated and placed into dumpster boxes (SWMU 6) adjacent to the tank farm, suggesting that soils were contaminated from past releases.

#### SWMU 6

#### **Dumpster Boxes**

Unit Description:

Four steel dumpster (or roll-off boxes) are located near the former hazardous waste tank farm (SWMU 5). The boxes contain excavated soils from the tank farm area. The dumpster boxes are covered with tarps that are secured by bungee cords (see photograph no. 11).

Date of Startup:

The unit began operation in 1991 during closure of the tank farm (SWMU 5).

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed:

The unit manages potentially contaminated soils that were removed from the area surrounding the tanks that is part of the former hazardous waste tank farm (SWMU 5). Potential contaminants in the soils include hexavalent chromium and lead. The soils are being temporarily held at this location pending test results and regulatory determination of the status of the soils. The soils eventually will be disposed of off site.

Release Controls:

The dumpster boxes are fully enclosed and covered with tarps to prevent wind dispersion.

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from this unit have been documented.

Observations:

The dumpster boxes were in good physical condition and the tarps covering the boxes were properly secured. No spills of potentially contaminated soil near the boxes were observed.

SWMU 7

**Baghouse** 

Unit Description:

The baghouse is located outside the rod mill. The unit is used to collect dusts from grinding and buffing operations at the mill. The unit is made of steel and powered by an induction fan that collects dust in the mill. The dust is conveyed into a small portable hopper that is underneath the unit (see photograph no. 12). The dust is transferred to a larger hopper where it is stored before shipment off site for

recycling.

Date of Startup:

The date the unit began operation is approximately the mid

1970s.

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed:

The unit manages dusts collected from grinding and buffing operations at the Rod Mill. The dust is not considered a hazardous waste for the toxicity characteristic (ASW, 1992a).

Eventually, the dust is sent off site for reclamation.

Release Controls:

The dust is contained within the baghouse unit. Some spillage of the dust onto soils could occur during removal of

the portable hopper underlying the unit.

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from this SWMU have been documented.

Observations:

The unit appeared to be in sound structural shape during the VSI. No evidence of deterioration of the unit was evident.

SWMU 8

Hopper

Unit Description:

The hopper is located outside the rod mill. The unit is used to collect swarf (steel dust generated from grinding operations) and other metallic dusts (such as the dusts from the baghouse (SWMU 7) that are recycled at an off-site facility. The unit is designed to contain a few cubic yards of material and is made of steel. The hopper is located on bare ground that is covered with slag (see photograph no. 13).

Date of Startup:

Unknown.

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed: The unit contains swarf and other metal-bearing dusts that

do not exhibit the characteristic of toxicity (ASW, 1992a). These materials are sent off site to a recycling facility.

Release Controls: The unit has no release controls.

History of Documented Releases: No releases from this SWMU have been documented.

Observations: The hopper is a portable unit and probably has not been

located at this location for more than several months. The hopper appeared old and was rusted and worn. However, there appeared to be no holes or other openings in the unit. The unit lacked a tarp to prevent wind dispersion of finely

divided metal particles.

SWMU 9 Drum Storage Area 1

Unit Description: A drum storage area is located inside the Old Normalizing

Building. The area is used to temporarily store drums containing various used lube oils and greases. The storage area occupies approximately a 15- by 30-foot area and is situated on a concrete floor. The drums are stored on

wooden pallets (see photograph no. 14).

Date of Startup: ASW began using this area to store drums in the fall of 1991.

Date of Closure: The unit is active.

Wastes Managed: The unit manages drums containing various nonhazardous

waste oils and lubricating greases. The oils and greases are

sent to an off-site reclamation facility.

Release Controls: The unit is located on a concrete floor inside the Old

Normalizing Building. The building is constructed with

cinder block and sheet metal walls.

History of Documented Releases: No releases from this SWMU have been documented.

Observations: The unit contained about 50 to 60 drums. Some of these

drums contained scrap metal parts in addition to oils and greases. There were no visible cracks in the concrete floor. There were no floor drains within the vicinity of the unit. There were some minor spills of oil and grease near several of the drums. According to ASW, the area had never been

used for drum storage before the fall of 1991.

SWMU 10 Drum Storage Area 2

Unit Description: This drum storage area is located inside a storage room

behind the engineering building. The unit is used to store

drums containing various materials, including waste oils and greases (ASW, 1992b). The drum storage area is made of brick. It is approximately 80 feet long and 20 feet wide. There are two garage doors at either end of the brick room. The floor is concrete and walls are brick. There are no floor drains present (see photograph nos. 15, 16, and 17).

Date of Startup:

Unknown, but estimated to be at least 1986.

Date of Closure:

The unit is active.

Wastes Managed:

The unit manages drums containing various waste oils and lubricating greases generated at the facility. These wastes are sent off site to a reclamation facility. During the VSI, there were drums that belonged to USX, including several drums labeled "Hazardous Waste." These drums are believed to be painting wastes or wastes containing spent solvents (ASW, 1992a). According to ASW, they are in litigation with USX Corporation regarding the disposal of the remaining drums. ASW stated that all drums contained only nonhazardous oils and lubricating greases (ASW, 1992b).

Release Controls:

The unit is located on a concrete floor inside a brick building. The building is constructed with cinderblock and sheet metal walls.

History of Documented Releases:

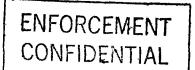
No releases from this SWMU have been documented.

Observations:

The unit contained approximately 50 to 60 drums. There were no visible cracks in the concrete floor. There were no floor drains inside the building. The drums were placed directly on the floor. Some of the drums were in poor condition and appeared as if they had been stored there for some time.

## 4.0 AREAS OF CONCERN

PRC did not identify any AOCs during the PA/VSI. The preliminary assessment did not reveal any specific information on past releases in areas not otherwise identified as SWMUs, and no AOCs were discovered during the VSI.



## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The PA/VSI identified 10 SWMUs at the ASW facility. Background information on the facility's location, operations, waste generating processes, release history, regulatory history, environmental setting, and receptors is presented in Section 2.0. SWMU-specific information, such as the unit's description, dates of operation, wastes managed, release controls, history of documented releases, and observed condition, is presented in Section 3.0. AOCs are discussed in Section 4.0. Following are PRC's conclusions and recommendations for each SWMU. Table 3 summarizes the SWMUs at the ASW facility and recommended further actions.

SWMU 1

Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

Conclusions:

The lagoon has been in use since 1966 to treat wastewater generated at the facility. Releases have been documented for this SWMU; however, the unit's design and operation have been modified to prevent such releases from occurring in the future. This unit has a low potential for release to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. Sludge generated in this unit was determined to be non-EP-toxic (EEI, 1987). The unit does not manage volatile wastes. Operational and design changes to the unit prevent the possibility of future releases to the surface water. The unit is enclosed by a fence to prevent unauthorized access.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

SWMU 2

Sludge Drying Beds

Conclusions:

The beds were constructed in 1986 to facilitate dewatering of sludge dredged from the wastewater treatment lagoon (SWMU 1). No releases have been documented for this SWMU. This unit has a low potential for release to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. The unit does not manage volatile wastes. The sludge does not exhibit the EP toxicity characteristic (EEI, 1987). The beds also have drainage tile underneath the sludge to convey water (including run-on) to the lagoon. The beds are located in a remote area of the plant with limited access due to natural and artificial barriers.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

SWMU 3

Scale Pit

Conclusions:

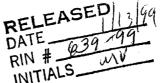
The scale pit is a below-grade concrete pit used to remove steel particles and oil from wastewater generated in the rod mill. Off-site facilities recycle steel particles and oil. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The unit has a low potential for release to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. The unit does not manage volatile wastes.

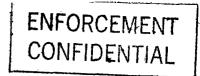


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# SWMU SUMMARY

SWMU	Operational Dates	Evidence of Release	Suggested Further Action
Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	1966 - Present	Yes	None
Sludge Drying Beds	1986 - Present	None	None
Scale Pit	Late 1960s -Present	None	None
Former Hazardous Waste Drum Storage Area	1980 - 1984	None	Sampling in accordance with OEPA-approved closure plan
Former Hazardous Waste Tank Farm	Late 1960s -Present	Yes	Sampling in accordance with OEPA-approved closure plan
Dumpster Boxes	1991 - Present	None	None
Baghouse	Mid 1970s - Present	None	None
Hopper	Unknown - Present	None	None
Drum Storage Area 1	1991 - Present	None	None
Drum Storage Area 2	Unknown - Present	None	None





The pit is constructed of reinforced concrete that appeared in good physical condition during the VSI. The pit is located inside the facility's fenced and patrolled boundaries.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

### SWMU 4

### Former Hazardous Waste Drum Storage Area

### Conclusions:

USX used the former drum storage area from 1980 to 1984. US Steel stored 55-gallon drums containing leaded steel dust and contaminated soils from spent pickle liquor spills on bare ground in the area. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The potential for release to environmental media is discussed below.

Air: Low. The wastes managed at this unit were not volatile. In addition, wastes have not been managed at this unit since 1984.

Surface Water: Low. The former drum storage area was not located near any surface water bodies or storm water sewers where a spill or other release could directly enter surface water.

Ground Water: Moderate. The unit lacked containment; spills could migrate to ground water potentially present underneath the unit.

On-site Soils: High. The unit lacked containment; containers were placed directly on bare soil. Infrequent spills may have contaminated the surrounding soils.

### Recommendations:

PRC recommends that sampling be conducted at the unit in accordance with the facility's approved closure plan and contaminated soils found to be excavated and disposed of offsite.

### SWMU 5

### Former Hazardous Waste Tank Farm

#### Conclusions:

USX used the former tank farm from the late 1960s to 1984 to store spent pickle liquor generated at the facility. The pickle liquor was sent off site for disposal by deep well injection or use as a treatment chemical at a POTW. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The potential for release to the environment is discussed below.

Air: Low. The wastes managed at this unit were not volatile. In addition, wastes have not been managed at this unit since 1984.

Surface Water: The former tank farm was not located near any surface water bodies where a spill or other release could directly enter the body.

Ground Water: Moderate. The unit lacked containment; spills could have migrated to ground water potentially present underneath the unit.

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On-site Soils: High. The unit lacked containment; potentially contaminated soils have been excavated as part of closure of the unit.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends that sampling be conducted at the unit in accordance with the facility's approved closure plan and contaminated soils found to be excavated and disposed of offsite.

SWMU 6

**Dumpster Boxes** 

Conclusions:

Four dumpster boxes near the former tank farm (SWMU 5) contain potentially contaminated soils removed from the tank farm. The boxes serve as temporary storage for the soils until test results and determination of the soils' regulatory status are obtained. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The unit has a low potential for releases to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. The dumpster boxes are in good physical condition and covered with tarps. The contaminated soils do not contain volatile constituents. No evidence of any release of the contaminated soils from the unit was obtained during the VSI.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

SWMU 7

**Baghouse** 

Conclusions:

ASW operates a baghouse to remove and collect steel-bearing dusts generated during buffing and grinding operations at the rod mill. The dusts, which do not exhibit the characteristic of toxicity (ASW, 1992a), are placed in a hopper (SWMU 8), before being recycled at an area scrap metal recovery facility. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The unit has a low potential for releases to air, surface water, ground water and on-site soils. The unit is completely enclosed. Some minor spillage could occur when the portable container beneath the baghouse is removed; however, there is a concrete pad underneath the portable container that provides containment.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

SWMU 8

Hopper

Conclusions:

Various grinding and buffing dusts, swarf, and scrap metals are placed into a hopper located near the rod mill. The metal-bearing dusts are not toxic (ASW, 1992a) and are sent off site to a reclamation facility. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The unit has a low potential for releases to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. The unit provided adequate containment of the grinding dusts and scrap metal. During the VSI, there were no observable releases near the unit.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

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SWMU 9

Drum Storage Area 1

Conclusions:

ASW began using a corner of the Old Normalizing Building in the fall of 1991 to store drums containing various used oils and lubricating greases. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The unit has a low potential for releases to the air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. Waste oils and greases are stored in sealed containers on top of wooden pallets. The concrete floor and walls of the building provide containment. No floor drains, sumps, or cracks in the concrete floor were observed near the drum storage area.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

**SWMU 10** 

Drum Storage Area 2

Conclusions:

This storage area is located inside a small room behind the engineering building. Drums containing various waste oils and lubricating greases are stored in this room. During the VSI, ASW stated that some drums belonging to USX that contained painting or solvent wastes also were being stored in this room until they were disposed of off site (ASW, 1992a). As of August 1992 ASW was in litigation with USX Corporation regarding the disposal of the drums. No releases have been documented for this SWMU. The unit has a low potential for releases to air, surface water, ground water, and on-site soils. Containment is provided by the concrete floor and building walls. No floor drains, sumps, or cracks in the concrete floor were observed near the drum storage area.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

#### REFERENCES

- American Steel and Wire Corporation (ASW), 1986. Letter to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) regarding a notification of hazardous waste activity, (December 10).
- ASW, 1989. Letter to OEPA regarding findings of RCRA inspection, (November 10).
- ASW, 1991a. Letter to OEPA regarding annual inspection of the wastewater treatment facility, (April 17).
- ASW, 1991b. Letter to OEPA regarding NPDES violations, (June 10).
- ASW, 1991c. Letter to OEPA regarding NPDES violations, (July 1).
- ASW, 1991d. Letter to OEPA regarding sludge remaining in the dewatering facility, (October 31).
- ASW, 1991e. Letter to OEPA regarding location and acreage of sludge application areas, (December 16).
- ASW, 1992a. Statements obtained from ASW representatives during PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC) VSI at ASW facility, (February 12).
- ASW, 1992b. Telephone conversation between Chris Zielinski (ASW) and Dave Phillips (PRC), (July 9).
- ASW, 1992c. Letter (and attachments) from Chris Zielinski (ASW) to Dave Phillips (PRC), (July 17).
- Envisage Environmental, Incorporated (EEI), 1987. Sampling and Analysis of Dewatering Basin, (May 15).
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 1990. Normals, Means and Extremes.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), 1986. Letter to ASW regarding RCRA inspection of the facility, (December 3).
- OEPA, 1987a. Letter to USX regarding RCRA closure of USX/USS Cuyahoga Works, (April 28).
- OEPA, 1987b. Director's Final Findings and Orders, (May 5).
- OEPA, 1987c. Letter to USX regarding the approval of the facility's closure plan, (November 2).
- OEPA, 1989a. Letter to ASW regarding violations found during RCRA inspection, (August 14).
- OEPA, 1989b. Letter to ASW regarding compliance with violations noted during RCRA inspection, (November 15).
- OEPA, 1991a. Letter to ASW regarding sampling conducted at the wastewater treatment facility, (April 19).

### REFERENCES (continued)

- OEPA, 1991b. Letter to USX Corporation regarding receipt of a closure plan for a hazardous waste storage area, (August 22).
- OEPA, 1991c. Letter to ASW regarding a closure plan for a hazardous waste storage tank, (November 14).
- OEPA, 1991d. Letter to ASW regarding an inspection of the waste water treatment facility, (November 26).
- United States Department of Interior (USDI), 1977. National Wetlands Inventory, (March).
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (USEPA), 1987. Letter to USX Corporation regarding receipt of the facility's closure plan, (December).
- USEPA, 1990. Letter to ASW regarding violations found during RCRA inspection, (August 27).
- USEPA, 1991. Letter to ASW regarding compliance with violations found during RCRA inspection, (January 18).
- United States Geological Survey (USGS), 1984. Topographic map, Cleveland South Quadrangle, Ohio.
- United States Steel (USS), 1980. RCRA part A permit application submitted to USEPA on November 17.
- USS, 1982. Amended RCRA part A permit application submitted to USEPA on May 22.
- USS, 1984. Letter to OEPA regarding an amended closure plan, (May 2).

# ATTACHMENT A EPA PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT FORM 2070-12



## POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

I. IDENTIFICATION								
01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER							
OH	OHD004220810							

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION								
01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site American Steel and Wire Corporation	1	02 STREET, ROUTE NO. OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER 4300 East 49th Street						
оз сітү Cuyahoga Heights		04 STATE OH	05 ZIP CODE 44125	06 COUNTY Cuyahoga	07 COUNTY CODE	08 CONG DIST		
	LONGITUDE 81°39'44"							
10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public r From Cleveland Hopkins International Airpon Harvard. Take Harvard west to East 49th St	t take Interstate				on take Intersta	te 77 north to		
III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES								
01 OWNER (if known)  American Steel and Wire Corporation			T (Business, meile East 49th Stre					
03 CITY Cleveland		04 STATE OH	05 ZIP CODE 44125	06 TELEPHON (216) 88		<del></del>		
07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner)		08 STRE	T (βusiness, mail	ing, residential)	·			
09 CITY		10 STATE	11 ZIP CODE	12 TELEPHON	e number			
13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)  (Agency  F. OTHER  (Specify)		C. ST/	-	. COUNTY	E. MUNICIP.	<b>AL</b>		
14. OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check at the control of t	B. UNCONT	ROLLED WASTE S	TE (CERCLA 103	c) DATE RECEIV	/ED: / / MONTH DAY			
IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZA		····						
□ NO	E. LOCAL HEALT	PA CONTRACTOR TH OFFICIAL  Environmental 1	C. STATE F. OTHER:	(Sp	D. OTHER CONTR	ACTOR		
02 SITE STATUS (Check one)		03 YEARS OF O				<del></del>		
M A. ACTIVE B. INACTIVE C.UNK	IOWN	<u>Earh</u>		esent YEAR	UNKN6	NWC		
04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT,	KNOWN, OR ALLE	GED						
Spent pickle liquor, soils potentially contamin	nated with hexa	ıvalent chromiur	n and/or lead,	spent solvents	ı			
05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONM	ENT AND/OR POP	ULATION						
Facility is an active plant manufacturing stee beds. Previous owner is conducting RCRA environment from waste management units o	closure of conta							
V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT			·					
01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or med	dium is checked, c	omplete Part 2 - We	ste Information a	nd Part 3 - Descri	ption of Hazardous	Conditions and Incidents.)		
☐ A. HIGH ☐ B. MEDIUM (Inspection required promptly) (Inspection required	C. L (Inspect	.OW on time-available b	M.D.NON		complete current	disposition form)		
VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM								
01 CONTACT Kevin Pierard	02 OF (Agency U.S. EPA	t/Organization)         03 TELEPHONE NU           A Region 5         (312) 886-444						
04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT David Phillips  05 AGENCY D8 ORGANIZATION PRC-EMI D8 O7 TELEPHONE NUMBER O8 DATE (703) 883-8886 O3 / 30 / 9 MONTH DAY Y								
EPA FORM 2070-12(17-81)	<u> </u>					MONTH DAT TEAR		

## ATTACHMENT B VISUAL SITE INSPECTION SUMMARY AND PHOTOGRAPHS

#### VISUAL SITE INSPECTION SUMMARY

American Steel and Wire Corporation Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio OHD 004 220 810

Date:

February 12, 1992

Facility Representatives:

John Mack, Manager - Environmental Affairs

Chris Zielinski, Engineering

Inspection Team:

Dave Phillips, PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC)

Deborah Lyne, PRC

Photographer:

Deborah Lyne

Weather Conditions:

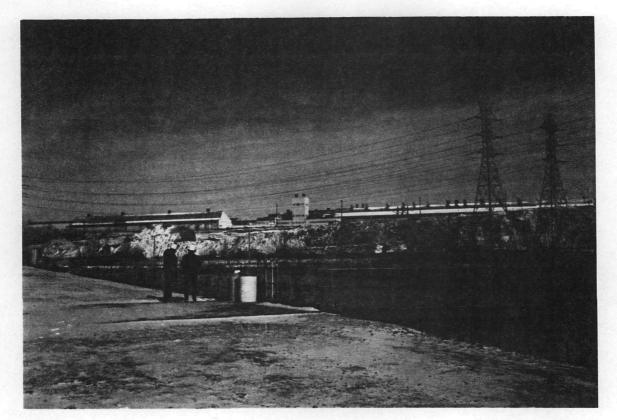
Partly sunny, occasional light snow flurries, temperature about 25°F

Summary of Activities:

This visual site inspection (VSI) began at 8:45 a.m. with an introductory meeting. The inspection team discussed the purpose of the VSI and the agenda for the visit. Facility representatives then discussed the ASW facility's past and current operations, solid and hazardous wastes generated, regulatory status, and release history. Most of this information was exchanged on a question-and-answer basis. ASW representatives provided the inspection team with copies of documents that the team had requested.

The VSI tour began at 10:05 a.m. The tour began with the inspection team viewing the wastewater treatment lagoon and sludge drying beds. These units were located farthest away from the main areas of the plant and adjacent to the Ohio canal and Cuyahoga River. The tour proceeded to the rod mill where the inspection team observed the scale pit and also viewed the manufacturing of wire products. ASW representatives then escorted the inspection team to the former hazardous waste drum storage and tank farm units. Both units were outside the rod mill near the edge of a bluff. The inspection team identified the dumpster boxes containing excavated soils from the tank farm in this area. The tour moved inside the rod mill to examine an acid regeneration unit which was recently installed at the facility to reclaim spent pickle liquor. The tour then proceeded to the east side of the rod mill and the old normalizing building where the inspection team observed the baghouse, hopper, and drum storage Area 1 SWMUs. ASW representatives and the inspection team finished the tour behind the engineering building, which was the site of drum storage area 2.

The tour ended at 11:48 a.m., after which the inspection team held an exit meeting with the ASW representatives. The VSI was completed and the inspection team left the facility at 12:05 p.m.



Photograph No. Orientation:

1

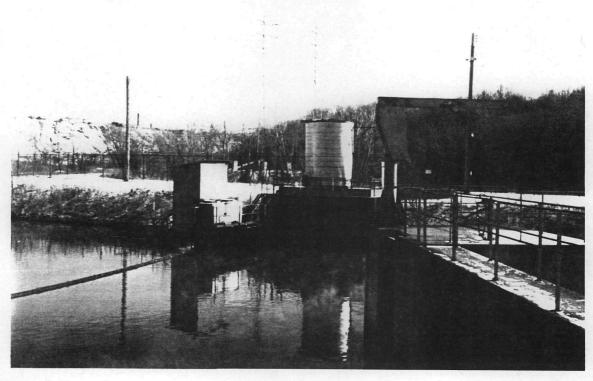
North

Location: SWMU 1

Date: February 12, 1992

Description: View of the wastewater treatment lagoon. The man-made bluff (primarily composed

of slag) is in the background.



Photograph No.

2

Orientation: East

Location: SWMU 1

Date: February 12, 1992

Description: One of the three oil/water skimmers used at the wastewater treatment lagoon.

Concrete dam is shown in foreground.



Photograph No. Orientation: Description:

Northwest

Location: SWMU 2 Date: February 12, 1992 View of the sludge drying beds. Sludge from the wastewater treatment lagoon was

placed into excavated pits.



Photograph No.

Orientation:

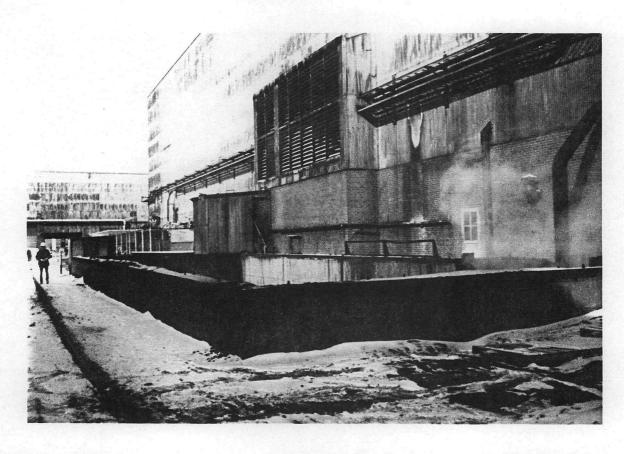
Northwest

Description:

Another view of the sludge drying beds.

Location: SWMU 2

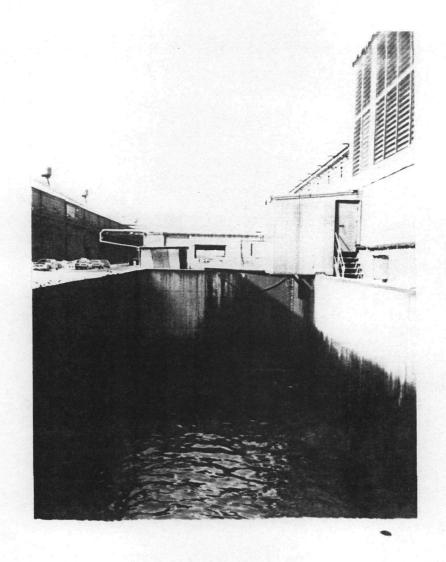
February 12, 1992 Date:



Photograph No. Orientation: Description: 5 West

Top of the scale pit.

Location: SWMU 3
Date: February 12, 1992

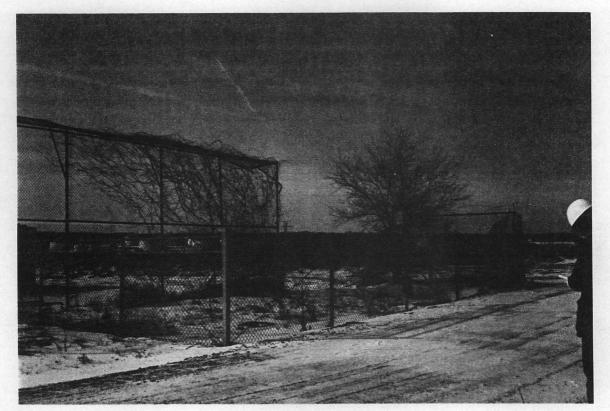


Photograph No. Orientation: Description:

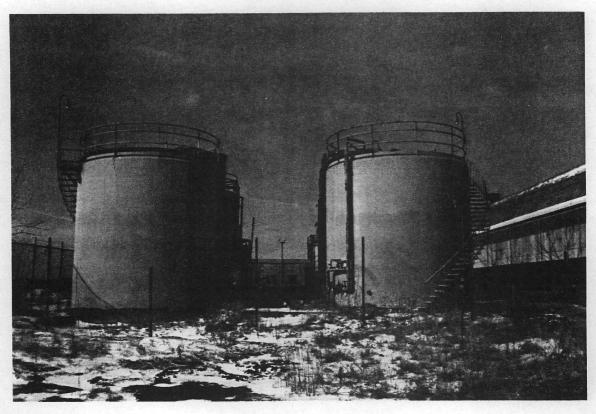
West

Inside of the scale pit.

Location: SWMU 3 Date: February 12, 1992



Photograph No. 7
Orientation: Southwest Date: February 12, 1992
Description: View of the former hazardous waste drum storage area used between 1980 and 1984.

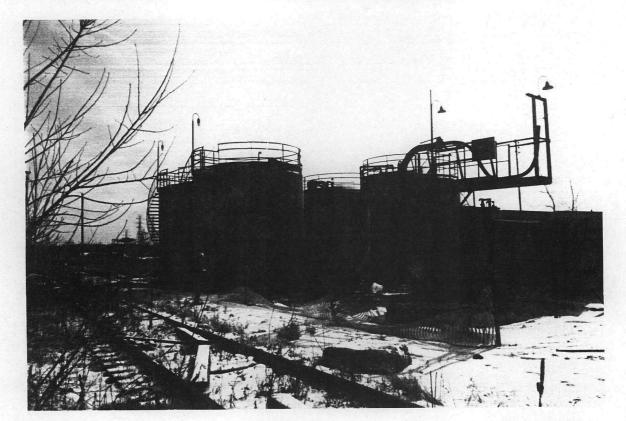


Photograph No. 8 Orientation: West

Description: View of the former hazardous waste tank farm.

Location: SWMU 5

Date: February 12, 1992



Photograph No.

9

Orientation:

Description:

Southeast

Another view of the former hazardous waste tank farm. Note the excavation and removal of soils surrounding the storage tanks.

Location: SWMU 5

Date: February 12, 1992



Photograph No.

10

Orientation:

View of the former hazardous waste tank farm. The cinder block building is the

Location: SWMU 5

Date:

February 12, 1992

Description:

pumphouse.

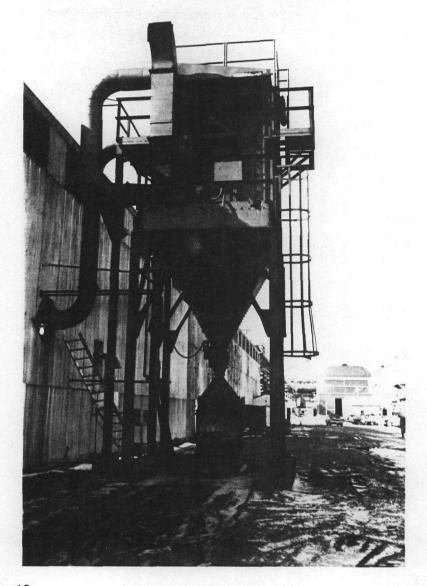


Photograph No. Orientation: Description:

11

Dumpster boxes containing potentially contaminated soils excavated from the former hazardous waste tank farm (SWMU 5).

Location: SWMU 6



Photograph No. Orientation: Description:

12 West

View of the baghouse located outside the rod mill.

Location: SWMU 7

Date: February 12, 1992



Photograph No. Orientation:

13

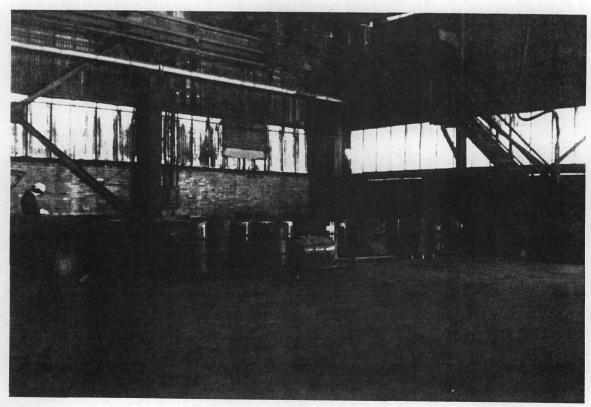
North

Location: SWMU 8

Date: Febr

February 12, 1992

Description: Hopper containing swarf, scrap metals, and other metal-bearing dusts.



Photograph No.

14

Orientation: Northeast

Location: SWMU 9

Date: February 12, 1992

Description: View of drum storage area 1 located inside old normalizing building.



Photograph No.

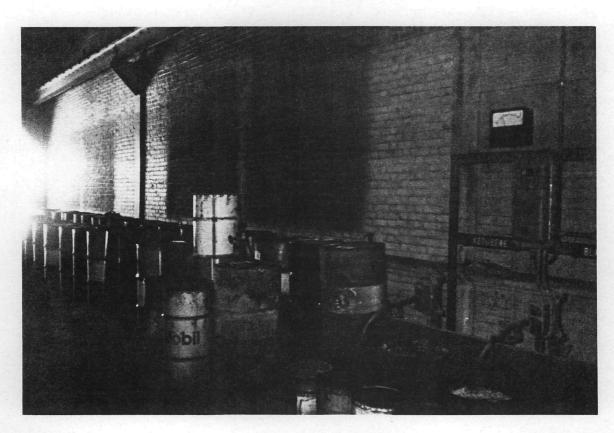
15

Orientation: Description: East

View of drum storage area 2.

Location: SWMU 10

Date: February 12, 1992



Photograph No. Orientation:

16

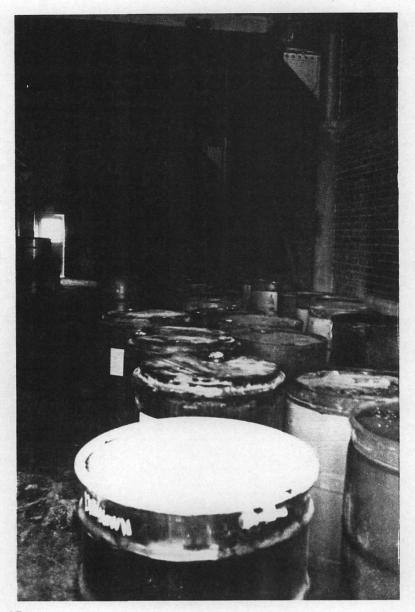
Northwest

Location: SWMU 10

Date:

February 12, 1992

Description: Another view of drum storage area 2; note the corroded drums.



Photograph No. Orientation: Description:

17

View of containers located in drum storage area 2.

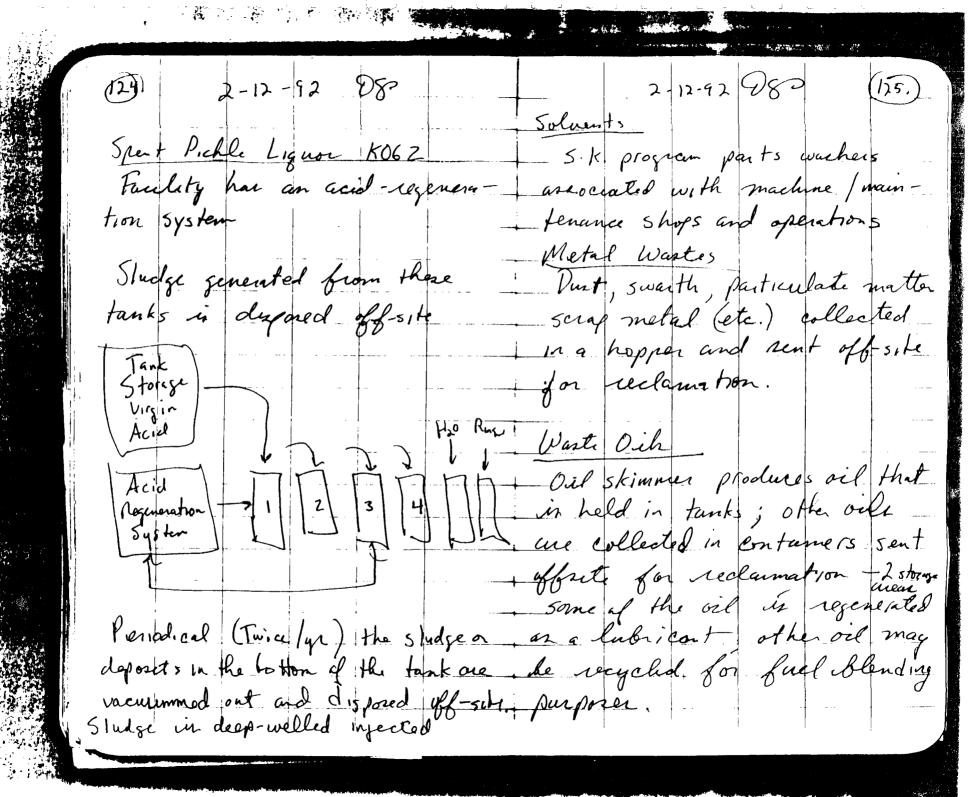
Location: SWMU 10

Date: February 12, 1992

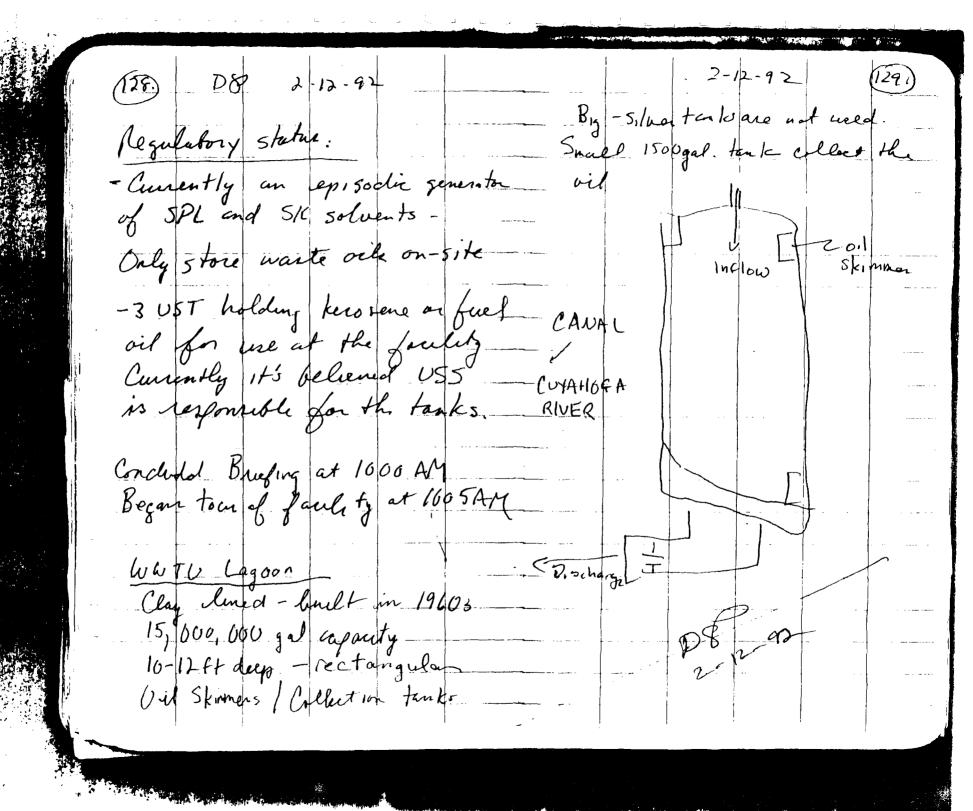
## ATTACHMENT C VISUAL SITE INSPECTION FIELD NOTES

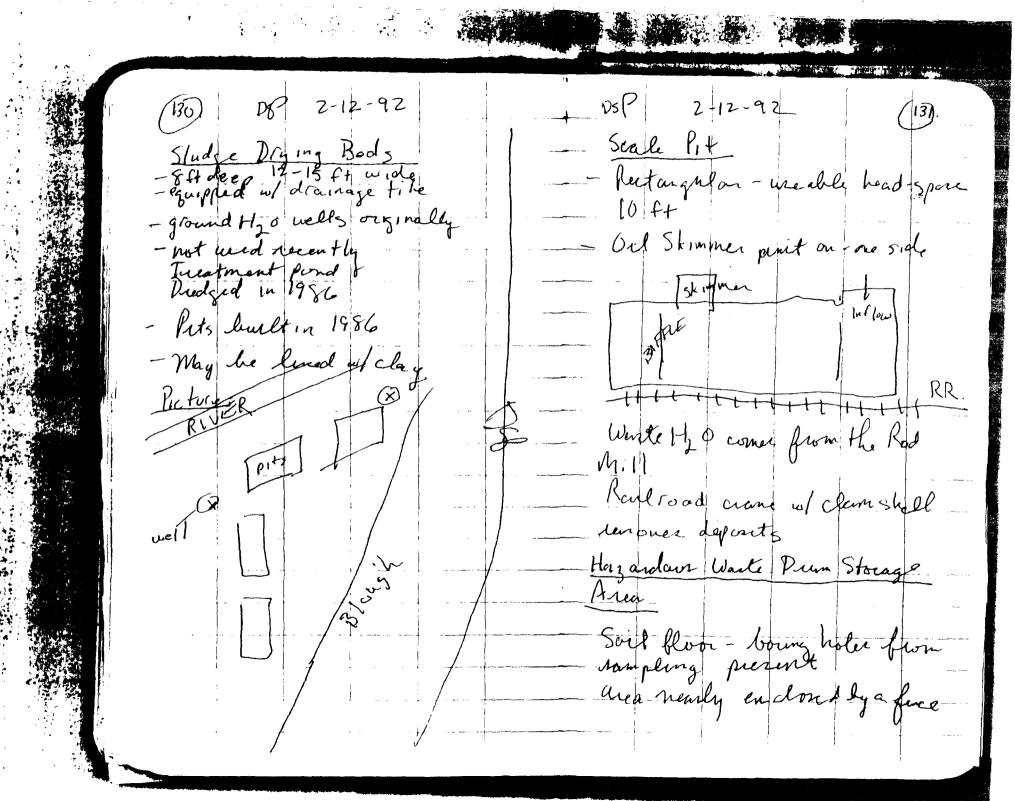
(129. 2-12-92 2 12-92 P8 Curent Operations Arrived at facility at 8:45 AM ASW rep. - John Mack Rod Mill Wire Mill + Cleaning house ASW rep. - Chris Zielinski PRIENT-Dane Pullipe Rod Mill Opprations PRC ENG-Deb Cyme Temp. Mid 20°F's - Portly Sunny Held pre-briefing at 8:50 AM History of Freelity Billets 2 grinders equipped w/ baghouses Dansmelly built in saily 1900s herted by ASW & subsidary of US Skel ASW & US Sheet in 1884. Entire rolled (as law interior at the wire mill) operation short down in 1984. Plant exopened in July 1586 Wire Mill Operation by ASW (completely separated Clean Couted, annealed or drawn from US Steel). other flant Buildings a Operations 280 aues total - 80 acres on blough - Metalungy Lab , Administrative building, Warehousing 1400 acres employees 12 Levante at the facility (1) Nook Industries. ( Wen 1986 87,88 (2) Gibraltan Strip Steel (1987)

2-12-52 78 (23) (2) 2-12-92 D8 Warte generation Operation, Storm water unoff is directed to the WWT lagoon also. Warte Hyo, One descharge point at facility Where (99% recycled) for clocharge from logoon - One tennant is mining former water gas to the war lagoon slag deposits - have applied for for pil stimming and discharge a NADES show water run off Aug. Discharge 45,000 gel/day pennet for HO Hat wouldn't enter lagorn Sludge in lagoon (Nonhazandous) Cleaning house generates a wante dradged periodically (once every natur that is nuetalized 40 5 years) stored in sludge (AH adjustment) in a pit prior drying bed - eventually upply to discharge to the city POTW sludge to areas win the plant Air permits Scale pit proceede lagoon - used Rehart Farnance, Boilers, Grinden to settle steel particles out of anerling furnance, natural gas wastewater. The particles are recycled. an compiessors



as 2-12-92 (127) 2-12-52 Deum Storage Area and Tank 2 - PCB transformer in service Farm have been out of service No central accumulation area since 1984. Tank farm was constructed in the late Asbentos removal program on-19605. 2 Waste Oil Drum Storage Areas - Dum Storage Area & Spent one usede a warehouse Pichle Ligar tank farm are both are enclosed under roof w/ being closed by USS under a concrete pad a Court order. Implemented generation / storage rate of less through a closure plan. . Than 100 diems at any given time Tank Farm Clean-Up Waste water Lagoer 4-5 roll of boxes containing. Bult in 1966 - clay lined Scale put built in the 1955 Souls removed as part of Closure - awarting determination concrete pit 4/2 befoles of regulatory stutus of soils 3 ail skimmers w/ the layour by OEPA / oil skimmer w/ the scale pot





788 2-12-92 DF 2-12-92 Former HW. Tonk Fain Rectain System for Pickle Acid Certain areas have been Viend system inside building pand floor - did not take any Cavaled pictures - system produce ferrom 6 tanks - brick lined suffate which is sold as a I pump home I naw material dumpsters Hoppen Containing granding Sway - eventually recycled Baghause partially forced Not used sene at least 1984 Used to collect duste from grinding and buffing operation in Undergoing closure Lunge tunks ~ 20 ft high Small tanks 2 12ft ligh Prum Storage Area in Old, Normal Kon HCI and Sulfame acid Tomks have coment / concerto base Waste greare and Lube Och Concrete pad, no drain No secondary contamment - Dumpoter boxer containing expanded Drums are on wooden pallets Some spellage noted

DR7 2-12-92 area wed since last Full 71 No central accumulation acoa und before about 50-60 dums present some drung contained variour scraf metal (ie. parts, pieces Other Waste Oil Dum Storage Sowerd drums contain ha good are waste - area pane - enclosed No Sumps or drawns Concrete floor - 60-90 drums present. Most dums contain orls Some drums still belong to USX Concluded town of boulety at 11:48 AM - Began Exit Brufing at 11:50 AM

DSP 2-12-92

Concluded Rebuefing of fourthy representatives at 14:00 Noon Left 1... Pet at 12:05 PM

> Joseph M. Markiw Manager, Engineering



### American Steel & Wire Corporation

4300 East 49th Street Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125 Phone: (216) 429-7662 Fax: (216) 883-3044

Christopher Zielinski Engineering



### American Steel & Wire Corporation

4300 East 49th Street Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125 Main Office: (216) 883-3800 Ext 488

John J. Mack, JD-MSES Manager, Environmental Affairs



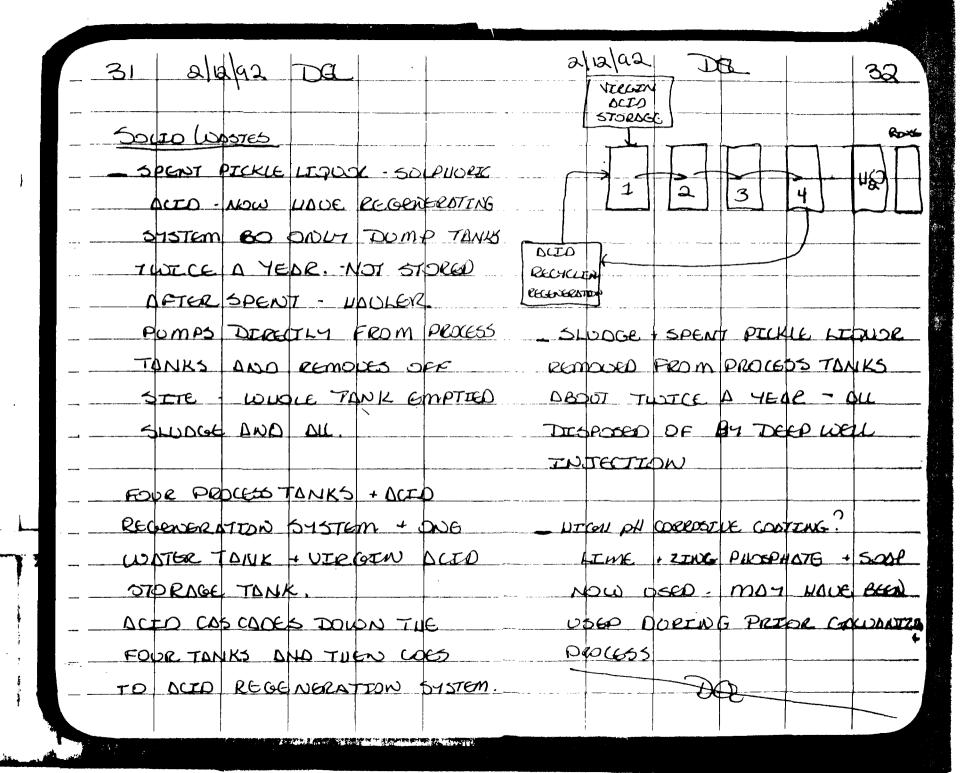
### American Steel & Wire Corporation

4300 East 49th Street Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125 Direct Dial: (216) 429-7692

alialga Dez alialga too 87 Roo More . Were Mry PICKLING DOERDTEONS 5.5.30 BILLIS . HENTED. STILL SPERSTENS DOZ ATO COURS TO VACTOUS DIA WASTE GENERATING DPS PRODUCT - SOME SUIPPED SOME SONT TO WIRE MILL FOR WASTE WATER CHEDNING, CODTING OR CONTACT + NON CONTACT DUNEDITING. 99% RECTRIVIATED WHEN WIRE MELL MOTERIOL COMES REHASED GOES TO MOOON FROM ROD MILL ROD MELL MOTERIAL COMES RECYCLEUG 15 MILLERUS COMUNICA FROM OFF SITE NO PRIMORY PUR DOY RECYCLED TURE BOD STEEL PRODUCTION NOW DOL mIU. BUERAGE DISCURGE, 49 IN THE PAST METALLIROY LABORATORY CICLONS A DAY IN 91 (CERTIFIED IN DOMEN BUGG. CEMBRITES SLUDGE IN LAGON -SUDDGE IS NOT HAZARDOUS: TWO IN WOUSE SPEC LABS LAGOON IS PECTOOTCHUY TOFAGA a EUGRY 5.10 YEARS. SWOGEN STORED IN DEWNTERING BEAL

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2/10/02 7 10.50 bm. tomic Flow SWARF, SOLE, DUST FROM Emaston WOTNG TOOK STOOK DIGULDING STORED IN HOPELS 1 <u>8 نورو</u> EXCANDITION DUICION WILL. - 1500 PG23 2 30-Dre Small - 4 Like TOKEN STIC FOL PLUDMATOR "SOUP ON STILL "HCL" ON STORE PUTO & BULLOUSE - 7 OF D Some thenoprotes history Bocker DN CTIME STORES FINE D0 TONE TONKS LEGT CIEN was cot sol - 10 - ter? 4 CTO18 TOOKS CUSTION STACE AT LEAST, 184 DILLIN STOKEN LE DREAS WOOTE PUSTO 5 16 TONK CRUDE - WOOTE HORET COTTON 55 GOLDN DELMS Enous J LONGLEO SEL DUMESTERS =73 Deva-DO ASW WOSTG FOR LEAD Some score some NOT ON POURTS NOW VEHICLETION ENDIUM IN OPCINITION STATE LAST propodes cere in conductor PHOL TO TUTT NO THEY SELL CENTRALECED LOCATED FOR STORE 133

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